

What is claimed:

1. A composition for topical use that has a melanin synthesis-inhibiting activity, the composition comprising a carrier, a skin-whitening agent, and sodium magnesium silicate, wherein the sodium magnesium silicate is present in an amount effective to slow decomposition of the composition.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the sodium magnesium silicate is present in an amount effective to prevent premature darkening of the cosmetic composition and to prevent premature development of a foul odor.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the skin-whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of tyrosinase inhibitors, free radical scavengers, chelating agents, and mixtures thereof.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the skin-whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of bearberry extract, lemon extract, cucumber extract, mulberry extract, licorice extract, lactic acid, acerola fermentate, magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, and mixtures thereof.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a color and the sodium magnesium silicate is present in an amount effective to prevent premature darkening of the color and to prevent premature development of a foul odor.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the sodium magnesium silicate is present in an amount effective to stabilize the viscosity of the composition.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of skin-whitening agent.

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8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of skin-whitening agent.

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 99% by weight of the sodium magnesium silicate.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the sodium magnesium silicate.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form selected from the group consisting of cream, ointment, foam, lotion, plaster, tablets, granules, and emulsion.

12. In a skin-whitening composition comprising a carrier and a skin-whitening agent, the improvement comprising an effective amount of sodium magnesium silicate to slow the decomposition of the composition.

13. A method of slowing the decomposition of a cosmetic composition containing a skin-whitening agent, the method comprising adding an effective amount of a sodium magnesium silicate to the composition.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 99% by weight of a skin-whitening agent.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the sodium magnesium silicate.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the skin-whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of tyrosinase inhibitors, free radical scavengers, chelating agents and mixtures thereof.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein the tyrosinase inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of arbutin, bearberry extract, lemon extract, cucumber extract, mercaptosuccinic acid, mercaptodextran, kojic acid, derivatives of kojic acid, vitamin C, derivatives of vitamin C, hydroquinone, glutathione, cysteine, mulberry extract, licorice extract and its derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the skin-whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of bearberry extract, lactic acid, acerola fermentate, magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, and mixtures thereof.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the sodium magnesium silicate is present in an amount effective to prevent premature darkening of the cosmetic composition and to prevent premature development of a foul odor.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the composition comprises from about 0.001% to about 99% by weight of the sodium magnesium silicate.

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